

BARCELÓ), and I have a bill to provide full funding for the territories under CHIP, and I hope that all my colleagues will support its passage.

There are incipient discussions on several other initiatives for which, when further researched and developed, we may ask later for your assistance and support as well.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2841 would allow the government of the Virgin Islands to avoid a costly two-step financing arrangement. In the absence of such legislation, the outdated limitations in the Government's general obligation authority would cause the government of the Virgin Islands to incur extraordinary costs in excess of \$6 million in order to complete this process.

Additionally, the new authority that the bill provides will expire on December 31, 1999, if the government of the Virgin Islands and the Secretary of the Interior do not reach an agreement on various fiscal and accountability standards for reducing the islands' deficit. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to note that, as the gentlewoman has just pointed out, this is a bill which is intended to provide, we hope, the economic stimulus necessary for the Virgin Islands to do a better job economically in order to benefit the constituents of the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

But beyond that, I would like to say that the gentlewoman has worked so hard to bring this bill to the floor, and I hope that her constituents are mindful of the great effort that she has put into this bill. So, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would just like to commend her for it and ask all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to just thank again the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), and my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), as well as my staff and the staff of the committee for the hard work in assisting me to get this bill to the floor today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of H.R. 2841 which provides the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) greater fiscal autonomy. I commend my colleague, Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN for ensuring that the voices of the people of the USVI are heard in Congress. I also thank Chairman DON YOUNG and Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER for making certain that this legislation moved quickly and without resistance through the Committee.

As is the condition with most other U.S. Territories, such as Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the USVI is also experiencing financial difficulties. For the past several years, while the U.S. has been able to boast of low unemployment and increased revenues, the U.S. territories have not been as fortunate. For the economies of Guam and the CNMI, which are largely dependent on tourism, our downturn has been a condition of Asia's financial crisis. Other Territories remain diligent and continue to explore new ways to attract businesses to their island. The USVI, however, has been placed at a disadvantage of providing themselves the opportunity for more economic activity.

H.R. 2841 will help with USVI get back on their feet and provide them the opportunity to diversify and expand their economic opportunities. This same authority exists with other U.S. Territories but was not included in USVI's Revised Organic Act. H.R. 2481 corrects this oversight and extends them the ability already enjoyed by the other territories.

I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2841.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2841, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2841, S. 944, S. 323, S. 293, and H.R. 1934, the five bills just debated.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND FAMILIES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 202) to restructure the financing for assisted housing for senior citizens and otherwise provide for the preservation of such housing in the 21st Century, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 202

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Preserving Affordable Housing for Senior Citizens and Families into the 21st Century Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Regulations.

Sec. 3. Effective date.

#### TITLE I—CONVERSION OF FINANCING AND REFINANCING FOR SECTION 202 SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Sec. 101. Conversion of financing

Sec. 102. Prepayment and refinancing.

#### TITLE II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Sec. 201. Supportive housing for elderly persons.

Sec. 202. Supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

Sec. 203. Service coordinators and congregate services for elderly and disabled housing.

#### TITLE III—EXPANDING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

##### Subtitle A—Housing for the Elderly

Sec. 301. Matching grant program.

Sec. 302. Eligibility of for-profit limited partnerships.

Sec. 303. Mixed funding sources.

Sec. 304. Authority to acquire structures.

Sec. 305. Mixed-income occupancy.

Sec. 306. Use of project reserves.

Sec. 307. Commercial activities.

Sec. 308. Mixed finance pilot program.

Sec. 309. Grants for conversion of elderly housing to assisted living facilities.

Sec. 310. Grants for conversion of public housing projects to assisted living facilities.

Sec. 311. Use of section 8 assistance for assisted living facilities.

Sec. 312. Annual HUD inventory of assisted housing designated for elderly persons.

Sec. 313. Treatment of applications.

##### Subtitle B—Housing for Persons With Disabilities

Sec. 321. Matching grant program.

Sec. 322. Eligibility of for-profit limited partnerships.

Sec. 323. Mixed funding sources.

Sec. 324. Tenant-based assistance.

Sec. 325. Project size.

Sec. 326. Use of project reserves.

Sec. 327. Commercial activities.

##### Subtitle C—Other Provisions

Sec. 341. Service coordinators.

Sec. 342. Commission on Affordable Housing and Health Care Facility Needs in the 21st Century.

#### TITLE IV—RENEWAL OF EXPIRING RENTAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS AND PROTECTION OF RESIDENTS

Sec. 401. Findings and purpose.

Sec. 402. Renewal of expiring contracts and enhanced vouchers for project residents.

Sec. 403. Section 236 assistance.

Sec. 404. Matching grant program for affordable housing preservation.

Sec. 405. Rehabilitation of assisted housing.

Sec. 406. Technical assistance.

Sec. 407. Termination of section 8 contract and duration of renewal contract.